

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF CHURCH

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

INCLUDING DETAILS OF
THE WORK DONE BY THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

1946

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HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor W. H. STOKES, Chairman.

Councillors :

A. BERRY, J.P., C.C.

J. DEWHURST.

J. W. HOPLEY.

G. G. KNAPP.

W. PLACE.

Miss C. ROGAN.

R. RAWLINSON.

H. SMITH, J.P.

J. A. SHARPLES.

J. WILSON, J.P.

C. H. WOOD.

Medical Officer of Health :

FRANK W. PARE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Part-time Officer.

Sanitary Inspector :

A. E. TAYLOR, A.M.Inst.M.&Cy.E., A.R.S.I.

Engineer and Surveyor.

From January to March, 1946.

Joint appointment.

J. L. PALK, M.S.I.A.

From March to December, 1946.

Clerk :

E. KINDER, in H.M. Forces.

E. WILD, Temporary Clerk.

Health Department,

38, Blackburn Road,

Church,

November, 1947.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Church
Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Urban District of Church for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

The various rates in this report are based on the Registrar General's estimate of the population for mid-year, 1946.

The live Birth Rate of 14.4 per 1,000 estimated population, whilst lower than the average for the last five years, is the same as in the previous year and compares unfavourably with the Rate for England and Wales of 19.1 per 1,000.

The Death Rate is lower than the previous year, being 13.6 per 1,000 estimated population, and shows a decrease of 1.9 over the mean for the last five years, but is higher than the death rate for England and Wales of 11.5 per 1,000.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 111 per 1,000 live births is very much higher than that of the preceding year of 14 and also higher than the mean for the preceding five years—32—and compares unfavourably with that of 43, this being the rate for the whole of the country.

The Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system is higher than last year. It is 1.00, as compared with .41 in 1945 and .55 being the mean of five years 1941-1945.

The Death Rate from Cancer is 2.40, as compared with 1.44 in 1945 and 2.51 during the preceding five years.

During the year no deaths were recorded from puerperal causes, measles or whooping cough.

Diphtheria Immunisation has continued throughout the year, 67 children have been immunised, an increase of 36 children over the previous year.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector and the Clerk of the Health Department for their help during the year.

I wish also to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Committee, together with the Clerk of the Council and all other Officials, for their valuable assistance.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK W. PARE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	528
Population (Census, 1931)	6185
Population estimated mid 1946	4992
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946, according to rate books)	1740
Rateable Value	£31,224
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£118

Social Conditions and Chief Industries in the Area.

The occupations of the inhabitants of the area remain mainly similar to those of the previous year, namely, weaving, bleaching, finishing and engineering.

There have been no special noteworthy cases of sickness or invalidity during the year, nor does there appear to be any conditions of occupation or environment which have been prejudicial to health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	67	29	38	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated
Illegitimate	5	2	3	population mid 1946 14.4
	—	—	—	
	72	31	41	
	—	—	—	
Still Births	3	2	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 40
Deaths	68	35	33	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population 13.6

Deaths from puerperal causes. Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births):—

	M.	F.
Puerperal and Post-abortive sepsis	0	0
Other maternal causes	0	0
Total maternal mortality	0	0
	—	—
	0	0

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	111
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	119
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12
Deaths from Meales (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	3

Causes of Death during 1946.

	Males. Females. Total.		
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Resp. System	4	1	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute infective encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (m) and uterus (f)	—	—	—
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	2	3
Cancer of Breast	—	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	5	3	8
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intro-cranial Vascular Lesions	7	5	12
Heart Disease	9	8	17
Other diseases of Circulatory System	—	—	—
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Pneumonia	—	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhœa, under two years	2	1	3
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	2	—	2
Nephritis	—	1	1
Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	—	—	—
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infant diseases	1	2	3
Suicide	—	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents..	—	—	—
Other violent causes	—	1	1
All other causes	—	5	5
	35	33	68

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and Royal Infirmary, Blackburn, with the exception of sputum examination for Tuberculosis, which is examined at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Accrington.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) Infectious Disease Motor, provided by Darwen M.B.
- (b) Non-infectious Disease Motor, provided by Accrington M.B.
- (c) The Blackburn Ambulance is available for the conveyance of patients to Queen's Park Hospital.

Nursing Arrangements.

There is one District Nurse available for general district nursing, but a nurse is not available for infectious disease.

Hospital Accommodation.

There are no hospitals within the district.

This Local Authority are members of the Accrington and District Joint Board, and prior to the war a site at Baxenden had been acquired for an Infectious Disease Hospital.

The following Sections of the Report, viz.:—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, HOUSING
and INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD,

have been prepared by

MR. J. L. PALK, Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Water is supplied by the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board and to 101 premises by Oswaldtwistle Urban District Council.

The water is obtained from moorland catchment area and deep wells.

Water is supplied from public mains direct to 1,744 dwelling-houses with a population of 4,992, and the supply is considered satisfactory in respect both of quality and quantity throughout the area.

No samples of water have been submitted for chemical or bacteriological examination during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The whole of the district is sewered with the exception of two farms situate on the edge of the Local Authority and not within suitable and reasonable distance for a connection to be made to the sewer. No extensions of the sewerage system have taken place during the year. The sewage is treated by the Accrington and Church Joint Outfall Sewerage Board at Coppy Clough, Church, by means of septic tanks and percolating filters.

Drainage work both to new and existing premises is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector. Attention to the water tightness of joints and true alignment of pipes in many cases appears to be lacking and by the exercise of patient instructional supervision good drainage work is being obtained.

Sketch plans of new drains and repairs to existing drains continue to be recorded in the drainage book.

Rivers and Streams.

The rivers Hyndburn and Tinker Brook, which flow through the district have situate on both banks numerous industrial undertakings discharging their effluents.

Liaison between the Health Department and the Lancashire Rivers Board has been maintained to check any serious pollution.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of privvy middens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of closets attached to those middens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of pail closets	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of dry ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
No. of moveable ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1852
No. of fresh water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	775
No. of waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1300

Closet Conversion.

No. of waste water closets to fresh water 21

To assist owners of property to convert waste water closets to the fresh water system the Local Authority contribute the sum of half the cost up to the amount of £7. This has not produced, in my opinion, the desired impetus to the conversion of the waste water closets.

Progress is not satisfactory due no doubt to the rising costs, combined with the possible damage of a winter on the water pipes of the external water closet, and to the exceedingly high proportion of old working-class cottage properties in the district.

Waste Water Closets.

A large number of choked drains from waste water closets have been cleared throughout the year by Local Authority workmen. This number with a little more care on the part of the householder could be considerably reduced.

Public Conveniences.

There are three public conveniences situate in the district, two of which provide sanitary accommodation for members of both sexes. The other convenience, a urinal situate in Bank Street, the condition of which has greatly deteriorated and cannot be considered satisfactory. It is urged that consideration be given for the necessary improvements to be carried out.

Shops Act, 1934.

Fifty-five inspections have been carried out to shops in respect of ventilation, temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites in the district.

Smoke Abatement.

Two observations were carried out during the year upon receipt of complaint, but no contravention was established. Nevertheless the complaint was brought to the notice of the works concerned.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools within the district.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the three schools in the district continues as before, although in one school sanitary accommodation of the trough type is insufficient and unsatisfactory. It is understood that when the reorganisation takes place a new sanitary block will be constructed, although in view of the present prevailing unsatisfactory conditions the provision of the new sanitary block is recommended as soon as possible.

Public Cleansing.

A weekly service of refuse collection is maintained, and the refuse is transported to Farholmes Tip by means of a Karrier Bantam Refuse Vehicle of capacity 7 cubic yards. Farholmes Tip is situate on the border of the Local Authority, some considerable distance from habitation, and the tipping is carried on by the recognised controlled methods. The refuse removal service is under the control of the Sanitary Inspector.

Street gullies are emptied by a mechanical gully emptier hired from a neighbouring Local Authority.

Salvage.

The separation of salvable material from household and factory refuse continued throughout the year.

The following is a summary of materials collected and sold:—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	26	6	1	151	5	10
Kitchen Waste	66	4	1	66	4	3
Rags		6	0	4	10	6
Non-ferrous Metals		1	3	2	18	4
	92	18	1	£224	18	11

The summary indicates that during the year the collection of salvage has moved only slightly from the figure of the previous year, the value in 1946 being £224 18s. 11d. compared with £228 5s. 10d. in 1945.

To be added to the sum of £224 18s. 11d. is the bonus received from the Board of Trade during the year for the collection of Kitchen Waste and Paper. This brings the total amount for the collection of salvage to the sum of £239 12s. 11d.

Disinfestation.

Three houses upon complaint were inspected and found to be infested with bed bugs. The owner of the properties removed timber architraves, skirting where necessary, and the Local Authority sprayed with Zaldecide/D.D.T. with success.

Treatment was also carried out with Zaldecide/D.D.T. in respect of two infestations of wood-boring beetles and three infestations of cockroaches were treated with Gammexane.

FACTORIES.

Power Factories.

Twenty-six inspections were made in respect of sanitary accommodation. Defects observed were notified to occupiers for attention.

Non-Power Factories.

Nine inspections were carried out in respect of cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, lighting and sanitary conveniences.

During the year one large factory extension took place where a sanitary block, including eight water closets, was installed.

It is hoped that the other industrial concerns in the town will see their way to convert their waste water closets and trough latrines to separately flushed fresh water closets at the first available opportunity.

Offensive Trades.

The only offensive trade in the town in pre-war days, that of tallow melter, has not been re-commenced. As during the days of the war, the processing of kitchen waste for hen and pig food received from surrounding districts is carried on at that factory.

RODENT CONTROL.

The rodent control scheme under the Infestation Order, 1943, has continued throughout the year with much success.

As commenced during the previous year, the arrangements whereby the services of the Rodent Operator are shared by the adjacent Urban District, Oswaldtwistle and this Local Authority, continues to function satisfactorily.

Treatment has been carried out, using the methods as recommended by the Directorate of Infestation Control to the Ministry of Food.

During the year free treatment to dwelling-houses was given by the Local Authority.

A certain number of infestations have been traced to defective drains, and after treatment has been carried out the particular section of the Public Health Act has been invoked in order to effect repairs to the drainage system.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

The conversion of waste water closets.

The conversion of trough closets at schools and factories.

The provision of a Public Baths and Wash-house.

The reconditioning of Bank Street public convenience.

It should be stated in support of the third requirement that more than half the houses of the district consist of 4 or 5 room dwelling houses, in which it is extremely difficult and well nigh impossible to provide satisfactory accommodation for a bath. Again it is observed that often the dirtier the workers' occupation the less likely it is that their dwelling houses will be provided with a bath or even satisfactory means of obtaining hot water.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year 0

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

1	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	216
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	268
2	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	0
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
4	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under 3) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	69

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers (including those brought forward from the previous year)	46
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
2	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	1
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
2	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
1	Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
2	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 0 |
| 2 | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | 0 |

4. Housing Act—Part IV—Overcrowding.

Precise information as to the number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year is not available, but overcrowding is believed to be very small.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

General Observations

The 1,744 houses within the district can be roughly divided into the following four age groups:—

- (a) 2—4 rooms, stone built, more than 100 years old.
- (b) 4—5 rooms, stone built, of age 70-80 years.
- (c) 5 rooms, brick or stone built, of about 40-50 years old.
- (d) Modern semi-detached built within the last 25 years.

The first and second groups comprise roughly 70 per cent. of the number of houses within the area of the Local Authority, and it is the exception rather than the rule to find one of these houses with a few of the normal amenities which the present day population consider necessary for a successful home life.

Although it is admitted that age is not the only criterion in judging the fitness of a house for human habitation, approximately 50 of the houses in the first group suffer from so serious a degree of dilapidation or disrepair as to render the possibility of reconditioning at a reasonable cost very unlikely. The best method of dealing with these houses appears to be demolition.

The problem of the 2-room back-to-back type of house, of which there are over 40 in the district, will have to be faced in the future.

Requirements.

These may be said to fall into two groups.

- 1 Houses to meet the immediate need of the recently married who have not been able to set up home on their own account.
- 2 Houses required to replace the unfit houses which will be demolished.

An exact figure for new houses which will be required is at present impossible to give as many other factors, e.g., the re-establishing of local industry to pre-war level, may bear a deciding influence.

Overcrowding.

The number of cases of overcrowding according to the Fifth Schedule of the Housing Act is exceedingly few, but there are approximately 150 houses in which two families are living. Probably the son or daughter is now married and the wife or husband, as the case may be, is living with the parents-in-law. Although overcrowding may not be caused to contravene the Housing Act, nevertheless undesirable housing conditions are being created.

New Houses.

During the year 12 two-bedroom type semi-detached houses were under construction, and eight three-bedroom semi-detached are contemplated.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Milk Supply.

(a) Dairy Farms.

In the district are situated four dairy farms, two of which are included amongst the 17 retailers within the Local Authority.

Ten visits of inspection were made and advice and assistance was given towards obtaining a clean and wholesome supply of milk.

No structural alterations or improvements to the dairy farms have been undertaken during the year.

The cowsheds and dairies of the dairy farms are, judging by modern standards, not conducive to assist a farmer to attain a high standard of clean milk production.

(b) The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1936-1946.

Number of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued during 1946 in respect of:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk—

(a) Bottling	0	(b) Distribution	1
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Accredited Milk—

(a) Bottling	0	(b) Distribution	0
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Pasteurised Milk—

(a) Pasteurising Plants ...	0	(b) Retail Distributors ...	3
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No licences for graded milk have been refused or revocation of registration of retailers taken place during the year.

(c) Sampling.

	No.	Uns.	Sat.
Milk samples submitted to Biological Test (B. Tuberculosis)	20	1	19
Milk samples submitted to Bacteriological Exam. (B. Coli)	11	5	6
„ „ (Methylene Blue)	11	0	11
„ „ (Phosphatase)	4	1	3

2. Meat and Other Food.

Premises where foods are manufactured, stored or exposed for sale, and vehicles in which food for the purpose of sale is carried have been inspected periodically.

A small quantity of foodstuffs has been examined, certified unfit and either destroyed or utilised after sterilisation for animal feeding stuffs.

There are no slaughterhouses used in the district.

There were no cases or suspected cases of food poisoning during the year.

Assistance has been given on request at the Depot of the Ministry of Food, in the inspection of Canned Foods.

This Local Authority is not a Food and Drugs Authority, and the work of carrying into execution and enforcing the section of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

(a) which relate to the composition of food and drugs;

(b) which relates to additions not to be made to milk and liquids not to be sold as milk;

and together with certain Orders and regulations, with a view to securing that food and drugs are sold only in a pure and genuine condition, is performed by the County Council.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Hospital Accommodation.

Smallpox.—The agreement for the use of Elm Tree Hospital, Oswaldtwistle, with Oswaldtwistle Urban District Council, came to an end during the year. Arrangements have now been made for the use of Accrington Smallpox Hospital, subject to Accrington having prior claim and the beds being available.

Other Infectious Disease.—The arrangements of 1944 whereby the Accrington and District Joint Hospital Board, of which this Local Authority is a member, obtained the use of the Bull Hill Hospital, Darwen, for its cases to continue.

Infectious Disease Generally.—There is no marked prevalence of Infectious Disease to report.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year was slightly higher than the year of 1945, there being 11 cases as against 7.

Scarlet Fever was notified on two occasions as against six in 1945, the cases of diphtheria remaining the same, the number being one, and in addition four cases of measles and four cases of acute pneumonia were notified.

Immunisation against Diphtheria takes place at the Clinic, Union Road, Oswaldtwistle.

Number of children immunised during the year:—

(1) Pre-school children	61
(2) School children	6
	—
Total	67

The Prophylactic used is Alum precipitated Toxoid.

Immunisation State of Child Population as at 31st December, 1946.

	Under 5	Over 5 Under 15	Total Under 15
How many of the child population have now been protected by artificial immunisation (i.e., up to 31st December, 1946)	123	332	455
What percentage does the number so protected bear to the total number of children in the age group	35.86	58.86	50.17

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1946.

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases	U	Total Cases Notified											Hospital Cases		
			Age Periods											Total rmvd.	Deaths	
		1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	deaths	to	in		
Scarlet Fever ..	2						1	1								
Diphtheria	1							1								
Measles	4			1	1	1	1									
Acute																
Pneumonia	4						1			1	2	1	0	1		

Disinfection after Infectious Disease.

Rooms of 9 houses were disinfected during the year by means of spraying with the disinfectant Killgerm, and the bedding on 6 occasions was disinfected by steam. The steam disinfector belongs to Oswaldtwistle Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS), 1930.

No. of Persons on the Register, 31st December, 1946.

Total Cases		Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Cases										
		Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary							
		M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.		
22	..	8	6	14	...	3	5	8	...	11	11	22

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1946.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0								
1								
5								
10								
15				1				
20		1						
25								
35			1		1			
45	1				1			
55		1				1		
65 and upwards					1			
	2	1	1	1	3	1	—	—
Totals	3		2		4		0	

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths is 1 : 4.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations,, 1925.

No action has been necessary under the above regulations, which concern workpeople, suffering from tuberculosis, in the milk trade.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The maternity and Child Welfare work is carried out by the Lancashire County Council.

